

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A system for managing security domains, the system comprising:-

a plurality of security domains, each domain comprising at least one network having a plurality of managed nodes provided therein;

at least one management node located in one of said plurality of security domains for controlling operation of said plurality of managed nodes in said one security domain; and

a firewall located external of said one security domain which is operationally linked to the management node in said one security domain, the firewall linking said management node with said plurality of managed nodes in said plurality of security domains.

Claim 2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the firewall controls the network traffic by examining the source of the traffic, the destination of the traffic, and the operational content contained within that traffic.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[1 or]] 2, wherein the firewall converts one management protocol to another.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 3~~, claim 3, wherein the firewall hosts Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

Claim 5. (Original) A system according to claim 4, wherein, when the managing security domain hosts one version of SNMP and at least one of the managed security domain hosts another version of SNMP, the firewall converts one version of SNMP to another.

Claim 6. (Original) A system according to claim 5, wherein the managing security domain hosts several versions of SNMP and the managed security domains hosts less secure versions of SNMP.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[5 or]] 6, wherein the firewall converts SNMPv3 on the managed security domain to SNMPv2c on the managed security domains.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any one of~~ ~~claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1, wherein the firewall hosts a subset of Internet Control Management Protocol (ICMP).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the firewall prevents communication between one managed security domain and any other managed security domain.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any one of preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein the firewall controls access of information by each node in a managed security domain.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~centralising~~ centralizing access control information on managed nodes in a system for managing security domains according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the firewall converts one management protocol to another.

Claim 14. (New) A system according to claim 13, wherein the firewall hosts Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

Claim 15. (New) A system according to claim 14, wherein, when the managing security domain hosts one version of SNMP and at least one of the managed security domain hosts another version of SNMP, the firewall converts one version of SNMP to another.

Claim 16. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the managing security domain hosts several versions of SNMP and the managed security domains hosts less secure versions of SNMP.

Claim 17. (New) A system according to claim 14, wherein the firewall converts SNMPv3 on the managed security domain to SNMPv2c on the managed security domains.

Claim 18. (New) A system according to claim 3, wherein the firewall hosts a subset of Internet Control Management Protocol (ICMP).

Claim 19. (New) A system according to claim 7, [[or 13,]] wherein the firewall prevents communication between one managed security domain and any other managed security domain.

Claim 20. (New) A system according to claim 7, [[or 13,]] wherein the firewall controls access of information by each node in a managed security domain.

Claim 21. (New) A method of centralizing access control information on managed nodes in a system for managing security domains according to claim 7, [[or 13.]]